

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 00564 130955Z
ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4732

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 0564

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, OEXC, JA
SUBJECT: FY 77 LABOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM; SOHYO URBAN PROBLEMS STUDY
TEAM

REF: STATE 003870

1. EMBASSY DEEPLY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE AFT AND AFSCME TO SEND LETTERS TO THEIR JAPANESE COUNTERPARTS WELCOMING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN SUBJECT TEAM. SUBSEQUENT TO RECEIPT REFTEL, TEAM ORGANIZER, UCHIKOBA, ASST. SECRETARY GENERAL, TOSHIKOTSU, CONFIRMED TO US THAT FORMAL "INVITATION" LETTER NOT NECESSARY AND THAT MESSAGE ALONG LINES DISCUSSED PARA 2 REFTEL SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO OBTAIN FROM CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF NIKKYOSO AND JICHIRO AUTHORIZATION FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE SECGENS TO PARTICIPATE FOR FIRST TIME IN LEP. UCHIKOBA REPEATED THAT NEITHER MUNICIPAL TRANSPORT WORKERS (TOSHIKOTSU) NOR WATER SUPPLY WORKERS (ZENSUIDO), WHICH HAVE PARTICIPATED IN LEP ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, NEED SUCH LETTERS AT THIS TIME.

2. FROM CONTENTS PARA 3 REFTEL, WE BELIEVE AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT MAY NOT FULLY GRASP SIGNIFICANCE OF CHANGE IN NIKKYOSO AND JICHIRO ATTITUDES TOWARDS LEP. FOR LAST 15 YEARS, WHILE MANY OF SOHYO'S MAJOR AFFILIATES, SUCH AS PRIVATE RAILWAY, POSTAL AND
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TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS, HAVE PARTICIPATED IN LEP, NOISY COMMUNIST MINORITY IN SOHYO'S TWO LARGEST AFFILIATES HAVE SUCCESSFULLY BLOCKED ACCEPTANCE OF USG INVITATIONS ON PART OF NIKKYOSO AND JICHIRO NATIONAL OFFICERS OR HEADQUARTERS STAFF PERSONNEL. (SOME NIKKYOSO AND JICHIRO LOCALS, HOWEVER, HAVE PARTICIPATED IN LEP REGIONAL TEAMS WITHOUT OBTAINING CLEARANCE FROM

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.) THANKS TO JULY 1976 SOHYO CONVENTION POLICY STATEMENT GIVING BLESSING TO STRENGTHENING EXCHANGES WITH UNIONS IN "OTHER CAPITALIST NATIONS" AS WELL AS COURTESIES EXTENDED IN AUGUST BY AFL-CIO TO VISITING CHAIRMAN MAKIEDA, SOCIALIST LEADERSHIP IN BOTH NIKKYOSO AND JICHIRO NOW FEEL SUFFICIENTLY CONFIDENT OF ITS ABILITY OBTAIN FORMAL CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF EXPANDED TIES WITH US UNIONS. BECAUSE LEADERSHIP STILL EXPECTS EXTREME LEFTISTS IN RANKS OF THESE TWO UNIONS TO STRONGLY CRITICIZE THIS INITIATIVE, IT FEELS ITS CASE WILL BE STRENGTHENED DECISIVELY BY DEMONSTRATION OF INTEREST FROM US COUNTERPARTS AS WELL. THUS, THE UNUSUAL REQUEST FOR A LETTER OR OTHER MESSAGE.

3. WE NOW UNDERSTAND THAT IF TEAM FINALLY ORGANIZED, IT MUST TRAVEL TO US NO LATER THAN FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY IN ORDER TO RETURN BY END OF MONTH. IT ALSO MAY BE FORCED TO LIMIT US STAY TO THREE WEEKS. SECGENS OF ALL FOUR UNIONS MUST PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL WAGE NEGOTIATIONS BEGINNING EARLY MARCH AND THEN IMMEDIATELY BEGIN CAMPAIGNING FOR UNION CANDIDATES IN SUMMER UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. IT THEREFORE URGENT THAT LETTERS FROM AFT AND AFSCME BE SENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. WE WILL DISCUSS ABOVE WITH ELLENBERGER AND ANDERSON DURING THEIR TOKYO VISIT.

5. IF PLAN MATERIALIZES, IT WILL RESULT IN HIGHEST-LEVEL CONFIDENTIAL

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SOHYO GROUP TO TRAVEL TO US UNDER LEP AUSPICES IN 15 YEARS.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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